
Manitoba 

**Annual Report
1989 - 90**

**The Criminal Injuries
Compensation Board**

91-02162/



Criminal Injuries
Compensation Board

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Honourable James McCrae
Attorney General
104 Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 0V8

Dear Sir:

On behalf of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, we are pleased to present our annual report in accordance with Section 27 of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act.
This annual report covers the 12 month fiscal period from April 1, 1989 to March 31, 1990.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. Kopstein', with a horizontal line drawn underneath.

Robert Kopstein
Chairperson

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Introduction

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Act was passed July 16, 1970 and provides that injured victims of crime, or their dependants, be eligible for benefits in an amount similar to workers under the Workers Compensation Act. The intent of the Act was to ensure that any innocent victim of crime or any person injured as a result of assisting a Peace Officer should not be placed in a position of undue financial hardship.

At that time, the administrative system already in place for Workers Compensation appeared to be the most appropriate system for addressing the needs of processing Criminal Injuries Compensation claims. Therefore, in 1971 the Workers Compensation Board was designated to administer the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act through the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.

Funding for Criminal Injuries Compensation comes from the Consolidated Fund of the Province of Manitoba through the offices of the Department of Justice. The Workers Compensation Board is reimbursed an administrative fee to provide services. A portion of funding is also received from the Federal Government Department of Justice.

This annual report reviews general information about Criminal Injuries Compensation. As well, departmental information, relevant statistical tables and graphs, and a statement of claims costs is provided.

Year in Review

In August 1989 Judge Robert Kopstein was appointed the new Chairperson for the Workers Compensation Board and the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.

A separate Appeal Panel was formed in August 1989 to deal only with appeals brought forward by the Workers Compensation Board and Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.

Legislative amendments for pensions were passed effective July 1, 1989 which increased the benefits payable to Permanent disability pensioners, widows and dependants of murder victims.

The new information manual was well received and distributed to many victim service organizations and interested parties.

Looking Ahead

Manitoba continues to participate in the Federal Government Department of Justice, Compensation Management statistical recording project. It is expected that this will be evaluated in the near future.

Bill 56 will be implemented this year and it provides for expanded benefits to surviving spouses.

General Information

Claims for assistance are made directly to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. Any person who is an innocent victim of crime and sustains an injury, or anyone who is injured or killed while attempting to arrest any person, preserve the peace or assist a Peace Officer, may file a claim. This is also applicable to any person who is the surviving spouse, parent, child or dependant of such a victim. The crime must be of the type listed in Schedule I attached to the Act. A copy of Schedule I is provided on Page 26.

Under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act, a report must be made by the injured victim to the police as soon as possible and the victim must co-operate with the police in apprehension of the offender. A person responsible for the crime or an accomplice to the crime is not eligible to receive an award.

The Act requires that the claim be filed within two years of the injury or death. It is only in very exceptional circumstances, as determined by the Board, that the time limit may be extended.

Two of the pre-requisites in making a claim are that a crime within the schedule of crimes listed in the Act was committed (or peace preserving assistance took place), and that such event directly resulted in injury or death of the victim.

Benefits available to injured victims of crime, or their dependants in case of fatality, include 75% of wages up to the legislated maximum under The Workers Compensation Act.

Monies are also available to cover expenses related to clothing, prescription drugs, broken eyeglasses, artificial limbs and dental expenses provided a minimum loss of \$150.00 is incurred. Assistance toward funeral expenses is also available.

Loss of money on the victim's person or kept by the victim in any place at the time of the crime, or loss/damage to personal property other than clothing, eyeglasses, dentures is not covered. Under the Act in Manitoba, payment is not made for pain and suffering.

All monies received by the victim or dependant in respect of the injury/death (including private insurance, restitution, etc.), are deductible from Criminal Injuries benefits.

Rehabilitation services including counselling and referral to appropriate agencies is available to assist victims of crime when it is identified that such assistance would be of benefit.

There is no cost to a victim in the filing and processing of claims. Once the claim has been filed, the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board gathers all necessary documentation to process the claim, and the decision is forwarded directly to the claimant. An appeal process is available if the claimant is not satisfied with the Board's decision, and the information regarding this is provided to the claimant when they are notified of the Board's decision.

In Manitoba there are no residence exclusions in claiming for Criminal Injuries Compensation. The crime must have occurred within the boundaries of the Province of Manitoba, but the victim does not have to be a Manitoba resident.

Departmental Information

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board staff consists of a Registrar, an Assistant to the Registrar, and an Administrative Assistant for clerical and typing services.

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board of Commissioners, which is also The Workers Compensation Board of Commissioners, establishes policies and criteria for the operations of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, and support services are provided by the Finance and Administration and Benefits Division of the Workers Compensation Board.

Processing of criminal injury claims takes place in consultation with various branches of the Workers Compensation Board.

Adjudication and Appeals

1st Level — Initial Adjudication

- (a) **Claims Decisions** — The Registrar or Assistant to the Registrar evaluates a claim, decides if it qualifies, and either approves or rejects the claim. This includes initial claims or claims for recurrence of signs and symptoms of a previous compensable injury. The Registrar or Assistant to the Registrar then decides the compensation rate based on information supplied and the period of time loss based on medical information.
- (b) **Medical Aid Decisions** — The Registrar or Assistant to the Registrar, evaluates requests for any necessary treatment, hospitalization, nursing, prescribed drugs, artificial limbs, eyeglasses, transportation expenses, etc., that are related to the claim for compensation.

Process of Appeal:

IF additional information is submitted which might affect the decision in any of the above instances, or if an issue is being raised that was not considered in the original decision, the matter is reconsidered by the person who made the original decision.

IF the submission does not contain additional information or does not raise a new issue or a change cannot be made in the initial decision, the claim file is referred directly to the Criminal Injuries Claims Committee.

2nd Level — Committee

- (a) **Claims Decisions (including Medical Aid)** — The *Criminal Injuries Claims Committee* considers all claims decisions appeals where the initial decision cannot be changed or amended to the satisfaction of the appellant by the previous level. This Committee may conduct further investigations into the claim and has the authority to approve or deny compensation. This Committee may also reconsider any of its previous decisions *but only* if the appellant:

- (a) Raises an issue previously not addressed.
- (b) Submits evidence or information not previously available.

The Criminal Injuries Claims Committee may refer a claim file to a Medical Review Panel.

Criminal Injuries Compensation Act, Section 26(2)
Reference by board in its discretion.

"Where in any application under this Act a medical matter arises in which the board desires a further opinion, the board may refer the matter to a panel for its opinion in respect of the matter."

A difference of medical opinion is not a requirement in Section 26(2) as it is in Section 26(3) of the Criminal Injuries Act and 67(4) of The Workers Compensation Act.

- (b) **Rehabilitation Decisions** — *The Criminal Injuries Claims Committee* considers all appeals where the issue is in the provision of rehabilitation services and benefits.

Process of Appeal:

IF additional information is submitted which might affect the adjudication decision, or if an issue is being raised that was not considered in the original decision, this will be considered by the Criminal Injuries Claims Committee.

IF a written appeal to a Criminal Injuries Claims Committee decision is received, the matter is referred to a Review Officer who may make arrangements for a Board Hearing.

Final Level — Board of Commissioners — Appeal Panel

The party appealing previous decisions may request either a Board Review or a Board Hearing. The Board of Commissioners may request additional field investigations, conduct its own investigation, or may refer the matter to an appropriate independent medical specialist or panel of specialists for medical input before reaching a conclusion.

- (a) **Board Review** — This review deals simply with the information that is already on the file, as well as any new written submissions.
- (b) **Board Hearing** — The appellant/counsel may verbally present their case to the Board of Commissioners. Additional information or a new issue will be considered.

It is recommended that all additional information and/or issue(s) be presented at the Board Review or Board Hearing, as this is the final level of appeal. Following the Board of Commissioners consideration of the case, all parties concerned will be notified of their decision and the criteria on which the decision was based.

Appeal Statistics:

These statistics cover the period April 1, 1989
to March 31, 1990.

Number of files considered by the Criminal Injuries Claims Committee	<u>7</u>
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Breakdown of Decisions

Appeals denied	5
Appeals accepted	<u>2</u>
Total	<u><u>7</u></u>

Number of files considered by the Board of Commissioners	<u>3</u>
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Committee decision rescinded	0
Committee decision amended	0
Committee decision confirmed	3
Referred to Medical Review Panel	<u>0</u>
Total	<u><u>3</u></u>



Manitoba

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board

Report of The Provincial Auditor's Office

We have examined the financial statements, being Exhibits A, B and C, of The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1990. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests and other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Board as at March 31, 1990 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in note 2 to the financial statements applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

June 15, 1990
Winnipeg, Manitoba

F.H. Jackson, CA
Provincial Auditor

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board
Balance Sheet

as at March 31, 1990
(with 1989 figures for comparison)

	1990	1989
ASSETS		
Receivable from the Province of Manitoba for current year deficiency	\$ 4,702	\$ 104,479
Long term receivable from the Province of Manitoba for future cost provision	19,947,078	16,806,956
	<u>\$19,951,780</u>	<u>\$16,911,435</u>
LIABILITIES AND PROVISIONS		
Bank indebtedness	\$ 4,702	\$ 104,479
Provision for future costs, Exhibit C		
Pension obligations	18,619,793	15,813,070
Future cost of existing claims	1,327,285	993,886
	<u>19,947,078</u>	<u>16,806,956</u>
	<u>\$19,951,780</u>	<u>\$16,911,435</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

EXHIBIT B
The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board
Statement of Operations

for the year ended March 31, 1990
(with 1989 figures for comparison)

	1990	1989
REVENUES:		
Province of Manitoba:		
Current year	\$ 1,753,647	\$ 1,647,029
Increase in provision for future costs	3,140,122	722,747
Recoveries — restitution, insurance	3,299	19,858
Bank interest, net of charges	4,073	1,544
Total revenues	<u>4,901,141</u>	<u>2,391,178</u>
OPERATING COSTS:		
Pensions	1,210,861	1,027,869
Temporary disability	308,879	391,848
Medical aid	176,299	171,957
Rehabilitation	61,681	56,899
Increase in provision for future costs	3,140,122	722,747
	<u>4,897,842</u>	<u>2,371,320</u>
Remittance of recoveries to Province of Manitoba	3,299	19,858
Total operating costs	<u>4,901,141</u>	<u>2,391,178</u>
	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ —</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

EXHIBIT C
The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board
Statement of Provision for Future Costs

for the year ended March 31, 1990
(with 1989 figures for comparison)

	1990	1989
Provision for future costs		
beginning of year	\$16,806,956	\$16,084,209
Increase in provision for future costs	<u>3,140,122</u>	<u>722,747</u>
Provision for future costs		
end of year	<u>\$19,947,078</u>	<u>\$16,806,956</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board
Notes to Financial Statements
for the year ended March 31, 1990

1. Authority and Operations

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Act provides that injured victims of crime, or their dependants, be eligible for benefits in an amount similar to compensation paid to workers under The Workers Compensation Act. The intent of the Act is to ensure that any innocent victim of crime or any person injured as a result of assisting a Peace Officer should not be placed in a position of undue financial hardship.

Under an Order of the Lieutenant-Governor in-Council, the Workers Compensation Board (W.C.B.) was designated to administer The Criminal Injuries Compensation Act. All charges for the administration of the Act are paid from the Consolidated Fund of the Government of the Province of Manitoba through an appropriation of the Department of Justice.

2. Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the following accounting policies.

a) Receivables

All costs of administering the Act are paid out of the Consolidated Fund under section 24(1) of the Act. Consequently any operational deficiencies are recoverable from the Province of Manitoba

b) Provision for Future Costs

(i) Pension Obligations

The capitalized values of pensions are calculated using a 3% discount rate which provides for the estimated cost of anticipated future increases in pension benefits.

The pension obligations provision was estimated by the Board utilizing independent actuarial methodology employed by The Workers Compensation Board in determining their obligations.

(ii) Future Cost of Existing Claims

This provision is the estimated amount required to meet the future cost of compensation, rehabilitation and medical aid claims incurred prior to March 31, 1990.

The adequacy of the provision for future cost of existing claims was established using an update of the methodology of the March 31, 1989 actuarial review.

c) Administration Expenses

Transactions in respect of benefit payments of the Board are processed by The Workers Compensation Board (W.C.B.). Consequently, administration expenses, such as W.C.B. staff salaries and other operating expenses, are billed to and paid from the appropriation of the Department of Justice and are reflected in the accounts of W.C.B. For the year ended March 31, 1990, the W.C.B. incurred \$167,787 (1989 - \$158,542) for administering the Act which was reimbursed by the Province of Manitoba.

Introduction to Statistical Section

Table I documents the disposition of claims for the period April 1, 1989. There were 31 claims held over from the previous year, pending further police, medical and employment information.

Table II records type of claim approved. Schedule I of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act outlines the type of crimes for which Criminal Injuries Compensation can be made. The schedule is illustrated on page 26. A claim may also be made for injury or death from an attempt to arrest a person, preserve the peace or assist a Peace Officer.

Table III is an analysis of claims benefits paid for ten year period from 1981. This documents temporary and permanent disability payments, rehabilitation cash benefits and other benefit costs.

Table IV provides statistical information which outlines a complete breakdown of "other benefits costs" paid for the period April 1, 1989 to March 31, 1990. This section also provides comparative figures from the last annual report.

Table V presents information regarding the number of claims processed over a ten year period. The reasons for non-acceptance of claims are explained in "most frequent reasons for non-acceptance of claims" on page 25.

Figure I illustrates the ages of the victims for which claims have been filed. The 21-30 age group has been identified previously as the greatest number of victims.

Figure II illustrates the employment and income status of the applicants.

Figure III provides a comparison of the sex of the victims for which Criminal Injuries claims are filed. The percentage of male victims remains significantly higher than females.

Figure IV illustrates the crime occurrence area of the Province for which claims have been filed. Winnipeg has the highest number of applicants. This could be due to the fact that over half of Manitoba's population resides in Winnipeg.

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Table I
The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board — Manitoba
Disposition of Claims
for the period April 1, 1989 to March 31, 1990

New Applications	377
Applications Carried Over From Previous Year	31
Cases Reopened	12
Total Files	420
Files Held Over to Next Year	58
Total Applications Processed	362
Breakdown of Applications Processed	
Approved	272
Denied	79
Not Pursued	11
	362

Table II
The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board — Manitoba
Approved Claims
for the period April 1, 1989 to March 31, 1990

Under Schedule I	1990	1989
Careless use of a Firearm	1	1
Causing explosion of explosive substances with the intent to do bodily harm or endanger a life	1	0
Sexual intercourse with a female under 14 years	2	1
Causing Bodily Harm by Criminal Negligence	1	1
Murder	18	7
Attempted Murder	13	34
Causing Bodily Harm with Intent	0	1
Assault	20	62
Assault with a weapon	106	108
Aggravated Assault	49	5
Sexual Assault	10	10
Sexual Assault with a Weapon	12	4
Aggravated Sexual Assault	0	2
Robbery	38	46
Mischief causing Actual Danger to Life	0	2
	271	284
Assisting A Peace Officer/Good Samaritan Attempt	1	1
	272	285

Table III
The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board — Manitoba
Claims Benefits Paid by Year

Year Ended March 31	Temporary Disability	Permanent Disability	Other Benefit Costs *	Rehabilitation Cash Benefits	Total
1990	\$308,879	\$1,210,861	\$176,299	\$61,681	\$1,757,720
1989	\$391,848	\$1,027,869	\$171,957	\$56,899	\$1,648,573
1988	\$333,725	\$ 939,251	\$156,192	\$59,827	\$1,488,995
1987	\$216,145	\$ 825,694	\$160,045	\$55,624	\$1,257,508
1986	\$247,522	\$ 613,997	\$ 84,444	\$70,085	\$1,016,048
1985	\$298,797	\$ 641,589	\$ 99,237	\$84,231	\$1,123,854
1984	\$392,365	\$ 442,048	\$100,159	\$50,799	\$ 985,371
1983	\$343,931	\$ 371,579	\$ 70,656	\$14,401	\$ 800,567
1982	\$248,716	\$ 299,486	\$ 52,513	\$ 5,285	\$ 606,000
1981	\$140,754	\$ 259,038	\$ 47,604	\$ 1,113	\$ 448,509

Table IV
The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board — Manitoba
Other Benefits Paid
for the period April 1, 1989 to March 31, 1990
(with comparative figures for the previous period)

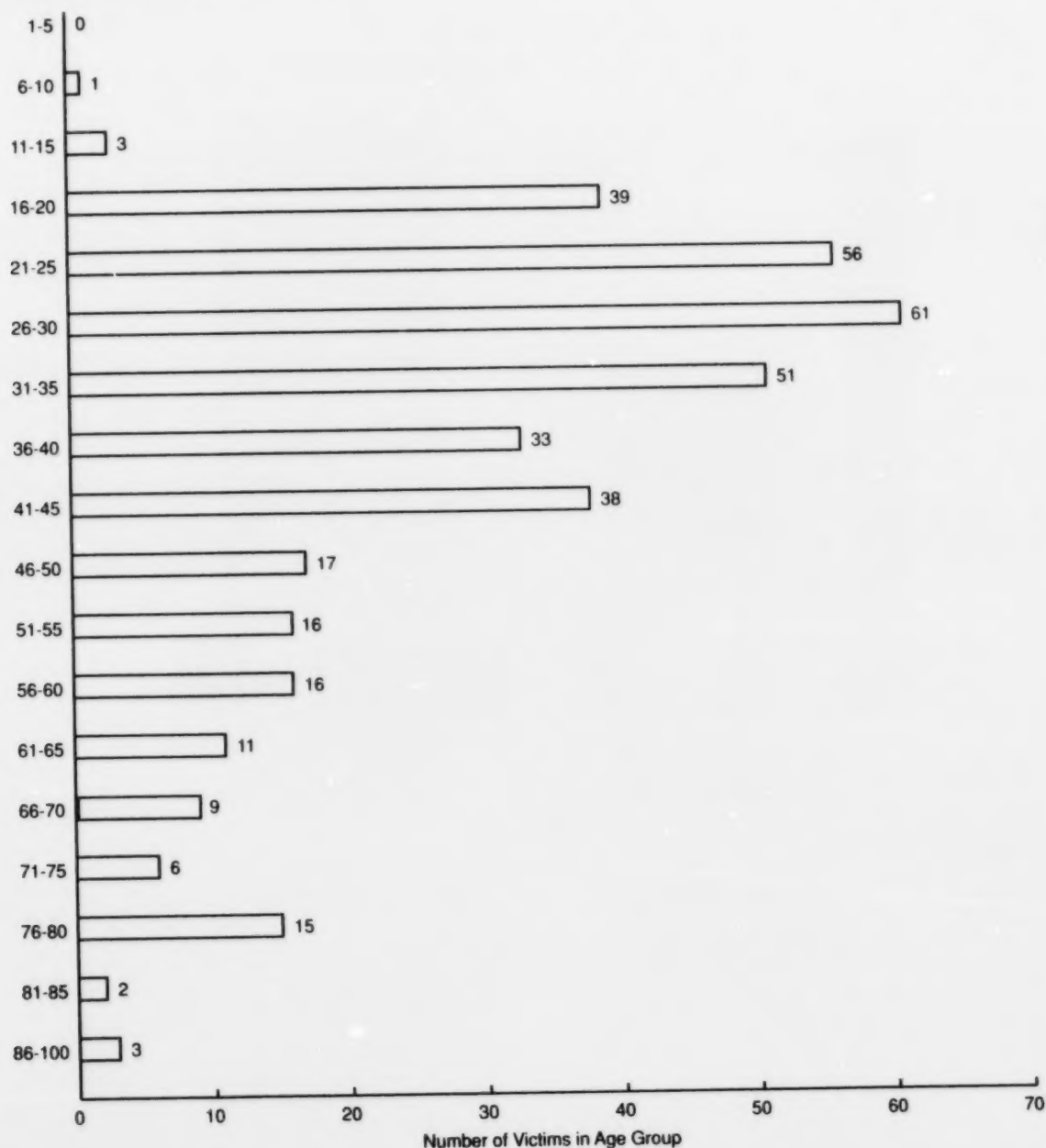
	1990	1989
Attendant's Allowance	\$ 47,760	\$ 43,924
Dental Treatment	19,586	33,655
Medical Reporting Fees	18,944	22,081
Psychological Counselling	17,844	11,423
Funeral Expenses	14,801	8,937
Clothing Reimbursement	11,669	13,875
Ambulance	9,850	8,130
Eyeglasses	8,681	8,440
Drug Expenses	7,051	3,516
Transportation	6,621	9,624
Appliances	4,455	918
Sundry	3,584	3,381
Physiotherapy	2,346	3,213
Speech Therapy	1,487	0
Counselling	935	0
Chiropractic Treatment	374	680
In-Patient Accounts	259	0
Outpatient Accounts	52	0
Nurses	0	160
TOTAL	\$176,299	\$171,957

Table V
The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board — Manitoba
Number of Claims Processed by Year

Year Ended March 31	Approved	Denied	Referred to Workers Compensation Board
1990	272	79	0
1989	285	87	0
1987	300	54	0
1986	189	23	0
1985	197	29	0
1984	257	36	2
1983	166	64	2
1982	125	50	1
1981	119	50	6

Figure 1
The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board
Claims Filed*

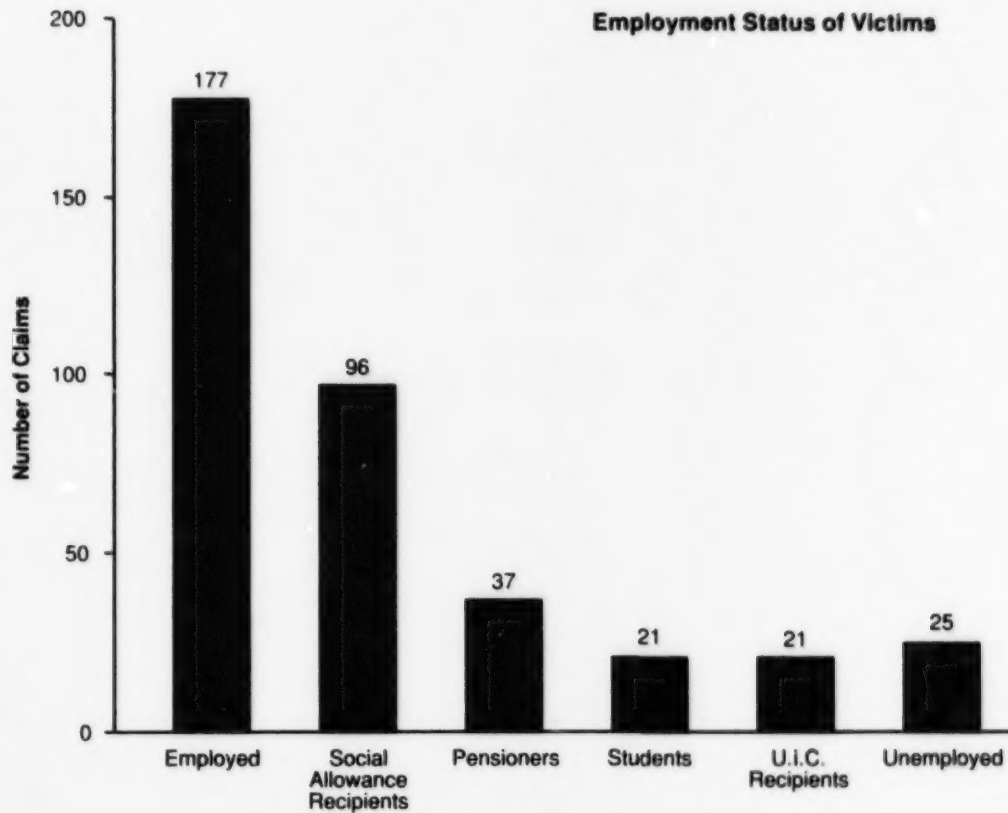
for the period April 1, 1989 to March 31, 1990
(based on information filed initially)



*Some of the claims filed initially were withdrawn by claimants.

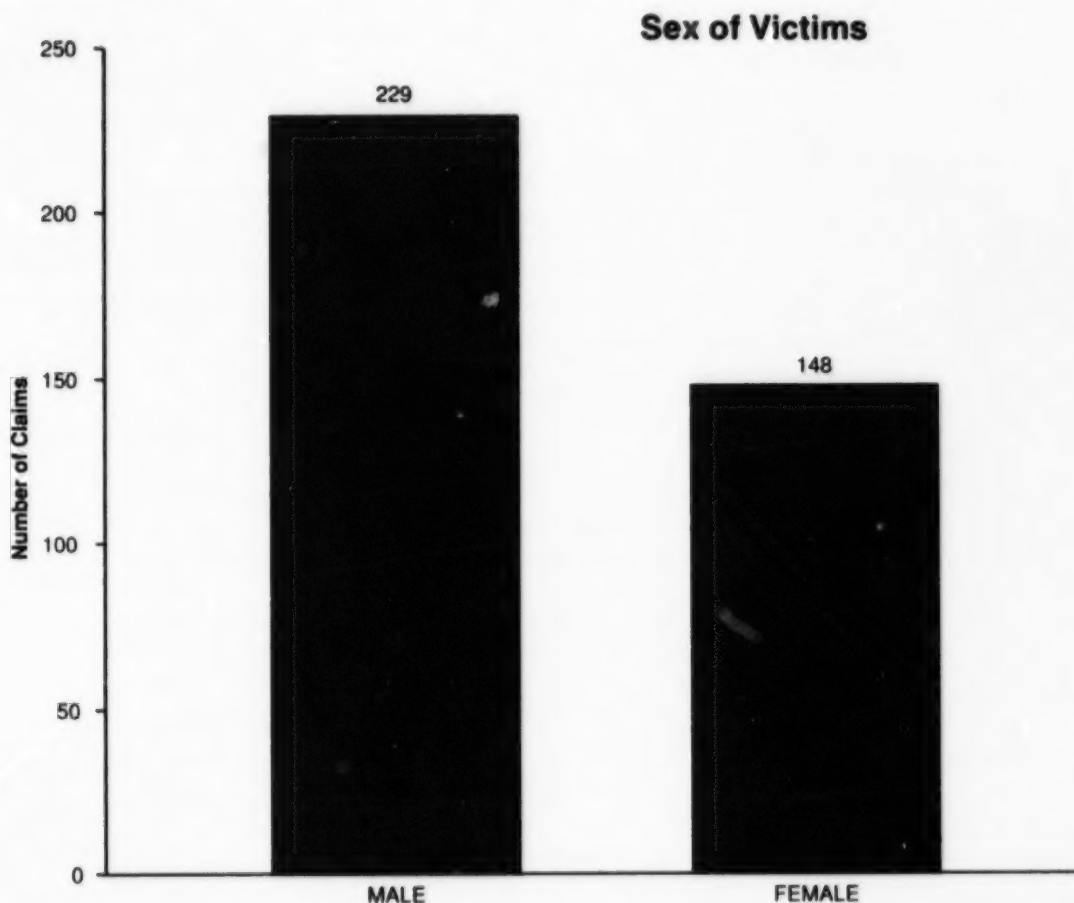
Figure II
The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board
Claims Filed*

for the period April 1, 1989 to March 31, 1990
(based on information filed initially)



*Some of the claims filed initially were withdrawn by claimants.

Figure III
The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board
Claims Filed*
for the period April 1, 1989 to March 31, 1990
(based on information filed initially)

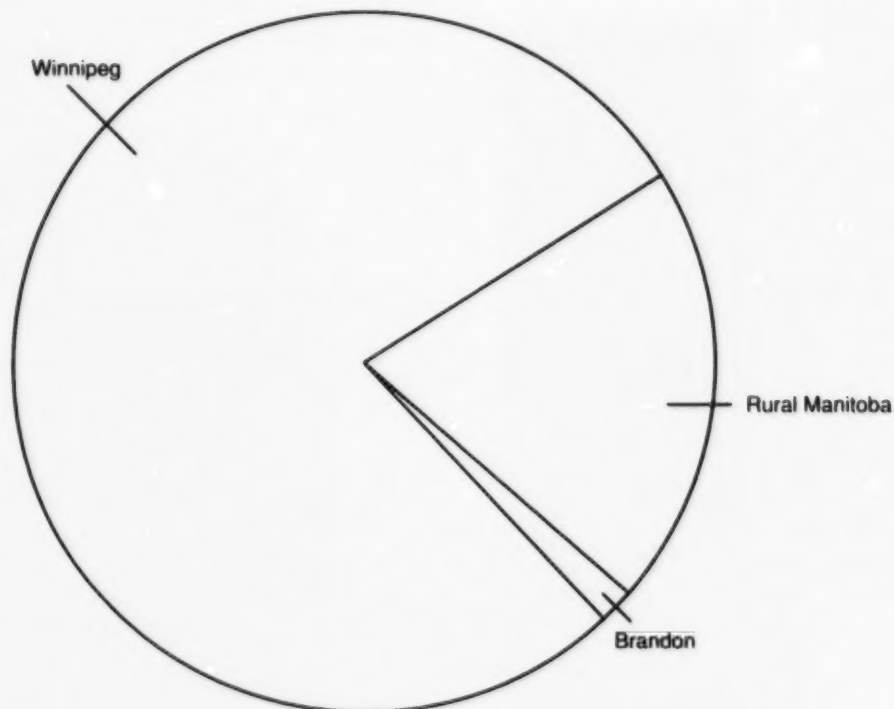


* Some of the claims filed initially were withdrawn by claimants.

Figure IV
The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board
Claims Filed*

for the period April 1, 1989 to March 31, 1990
(based on information filed initially)

Crime Occurrence Area of Province



Winnipeg = 330 Claims
Brandon = 9 Claims
Rural Manitoba = 38 Claims

*Some of the claims filed initially were withdrawn by claimants.

Most Frequent Reasons for Non-Acceptance of Claims

	1990	1989
SECTION 6(2)(a)		
"Except as otherwise permitted by this Act, the board shall not make an order for compensation where the application for compensation is made after the expiration of 2 years from the date of the injury or death as the case may be."	1	1
SECTION 6(2)(b)		
"Except as may be otherwise permitted by this Act, the board shall not make an order for compensation where the crime of violence giving rise to the claim was not reported within a reasonable period of time after the happening thereof to the proper law enforcement officers, or if reported, the claimant did not render the assistance in the apprehension of the offender as he might reasonably be expected."	40	29
SECTION 6(2)(c)		
"Except as may be otherwise permitted by this Act, the board shall not make an order for compensation where the victim participated in, or was in collusion with the person committing the crime as a result of which injury to or the death of the victim occurred."	0	1
SECTION 6(2)(d)		
"Except as may be otherwise permitted by this Act the board shall not make an order for compensation where, in the opinion of the board the person who committed the crime as a result of which the injury death of the victim occurred would benefit directly from any compensation granted under this Act."	0	1
SECTION 11(1)		
"The board, in making or in declining to make an order for payment of compensation, shall consider and take into account all circumstances as it considers relevant to the making of the order and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the board shall consider and take into account the character of the applicant and any behavior that directly or indirectly contributed to the injury or death of the victim."	12	16
SCHEDULE 1		
No evidence of a crime under the Schedule of crimes under the Act.	26	39
	79	87

Schedule 1

Section of Criminal Code	Description of Offence
65	taking part in a riot
76	hijacking of aircraft
77	endangering safety of aircraft in flight
78	taking on board a civilian aircraft offensive weapons and explosive substances
80	failure to take reasonable care in relation to explosives where death or bodily harm results
81	causing explosion of explosive substances with intent to do bodily harm or endanger life
86	unlawful pointing of firearm; careless use, carriage, handling etc. of firearm or ammunition
153	sexual intercourse with female under age 14, sexual intercourse with female between 14 and 16
180	common nuisance causing physical injury
215	failure to provide necessities of life
218	abandoning child and endangering its life
220	causing death by criminal negligence
221	causing bodily harm by criminal negligence
235	murder
236	manslaughter
239	attempted murder
244	causing bodily harm with intent
245	administering poison or other destructive or noxious things
246	overcoming resistance to commission of offence
247	traps likely to cause bodily harm
258	dangerous operation of vessel or aircraft; dangerous operation of vessel or aircraft causing bodily harm; dangerous operation of vessel or aircraft causing death
260	operation of vessel or aircraft while impaired by alcohol or with more than 80 mgs. of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood
262	impeding attempt to save life
266	assault
267	assault with weapon; assault causing bodily harm
268	aggravated assault
269	unlawfully causing bodily harm
270	assault on public or peace officers, persons enforcing, etc.
271	sexual assault
272	sexual assault with weapon, threats to a third party, causing bodily harm
273	aggravated sexual assault
279	kidnapping, illegal confinement
287	procuring miscarriage
343	robbery
423	intimidation by violence (ss(1) para. (a))
433	arson
436	causing fire resulting in loss of life
437	false fire alarm
999	assisting a peace officer

Victim/Witness Services

Victim Services

Services for this program are provided by the Winnipeg Police Department, and the type of assistance provided includes:

1. Information regarding the progress of the case, investigation and the recovery and return of any stolen property.
2. Assistance in understanding the procedures and practices of the Criminal Justice System.
3. Referral to the appropriate community agency for counselling services, legal advice, health care, etc., as required.
4. Referral to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board for victims injured as the result of a crime.
5. Emotional and moral support will be provided throughout the case. This is especially important to victims of violent crimes.

Older Victim Services

There are services available to retired persons or those over the age of 60 through the Age and Opportunity Centre, Inc. Services are essentially the same as outlined under Victim Services.

Victim Assistance Committee

On January 1, 1987 the Justice For Victim's of Crime Act (Manitoba) was proclaimed. This legislation includes three major features; a Declaration of Principles; the creation of a Victim's Assistance Committee and the creation of a Victim's Assistance Fund.

The Victim's Assistance Fund is a separate fund to be used for the development of services and programs for victims. Financial resources for the fund are generated through the imposition of a surcharge on existing non-by-law provincial fines. The legislation also provides for the surcharge of \$25.00 in a case where a fine is not a part of final disposition of the court.

Any person or organization may apply for funding of research, information or a victim services project.

For further information please contact the Victim's Assistance Committee, 5th Floor, Woodsworth Building, 405 Broadway, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Victim/Witness Assistance Program

The Victim/Witness Assistance Program is not a part of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, however, this is a support program and public awareness of this service is important. It is for this reason that information has been included in the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board Annual Report.

The purpose of the Victim/Witness Assistance Program is to provide a support service to people who have become the victim of a crime or those who are innocently involved in the criminal justice system.

Victim/Witness Assistance is provided through a reception centre located on the 4th Floor, Law Courts, 408 York Avenue. The program is staffed by a Co-ordinator, a Witness Worker and a number of volunteers who have been familiarized with the criminal justice system.

It is the responsibility of staff to promptly notify witnesses of cancellations. Witnesses attending at the reception centre will be advised who the crown attorney is and will receive answers to any questions they may have.

Crown witnesses also wait in the reception center before being called which means they no longer have to sit in the same room with the accused or defence lawyer. After giving evidence, they may remain, if they wish, with other spectators in the court room.

Interpretation services are provided when needed and referrals are made to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board when appropriate.

Informational brochures are distributed with all court subpoenas and throughout the province in cooperation with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

The Victim/Witness Program is funded through the Attorney-General of Manitoba.